

Applicants: Michael A. Johnson et al.
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Page 2 of 8

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Kindly amend the specification as follows:

Amend paragraph 19 as follows:

[19] Further according to the invention, a portable surface cleaning apparatus comprises a base module for movement along a surface, a handle assembly pivotally attached to the base module; a debris recovery system ~~carried by the base module and~~ including a recovery container, ~~carried by the base module~~, a suction nozzle associated with the base module, a working air conduit extending between the recovery container and the suction nozzle; and a vacuum source in fluid communication with the recovery container for generating a flow of working air from the suction nozzle through the working air conduit and through the recovery container to thereby draw debris from a surface to be cleaned, through the suction nozzle and working air conduit and into the recovery container. Further, the handle is formed by a base section, and a pivot section, ~~and a pivot mounting. The pivot section which~~ is pivotally attached to the base section ~~by the pivot mounting for rotation of the pivot section about the pivot mounting with~~ respect to the base section so that the pivot section can be folded to a first position against the base section to place the extraction cleaner into a compact configuration, and unfolded to a second, upright position to form the handle assembly for maneuvering the extraction cleaner.

Add new paragraph 19.1 as follows:

[19.1] In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the handle is attached to a rear portion of the base module; the base section and the pivot sections each have a front surface and a rear surface and the pivot section is pivotally mounted to the base section so that the pivot section pivots rearwardly from the upright position to the compact configuration with the rear surfaces of the pivot section and the base section facing each other.